

The True Northerner.

PAW PAW, MICHIGAN.

Persons who had congregated in the vicinity of Grace P. E. Church, at Baltimore, to witness the marriage of Grace R. Woods, a society belle, and Frank Alvin Brown, a young merchant, were disappointed, as the ceremony was performed at the residence of the bride's sister by a prominent Methodist divine. The rector of Grace Church had just learned that Mr. Brown was a divorced man, and would not perform the service nor permit the church to be used, and the fact leaking out that Mr. Brown had been previously married and divorced has created a social sensation.

The Current: B. F. Eastman writes to the Portland, Me., *Advertiser* that, on the 9th of June, 1816, as he remembers, the ground froze in the region of Portland to the depth of two inches, and summer birds died with the cold. There were frosts in every month of the year except August, and not one bushel of corn ripened. People with money went on horseback to Hallowell to buy the Virginia (or horsetooth) corn at \$2 a bushel. People without money went hungry all the next winter. What would the poor Communist do in such a year as that? He would never have strength enough to deliver his Sunday oration about the laborer being robbed of the fruits of his toil, although such a robbery—a rare thing—would have actually taken place.

One must have been deeply impressed by the self-devotion of the lady who was engaged to Mr. G. P. Reed, of Ohio, recently, and replied to him—when he wrote that "his health was so bad that he thought it unadvisable to marry"—"she would marry him if he didn't live three weeks." As he died in twenty-four hours after she had married him and gave her a bequest of a large property, one is led to wonder if she might not have thought of that when she was so prompt to insist on the marriage. When the fiancée of Capt. Dacre, of the Guerriers—we think it was—was told by him that "his wounds had left him the wreck of a man," and he offered to release her from her engagement, she said "she would marry him if there was enough left of his body to hold his soul." Is there a difference here?

Vice President Hendricks recently met Sluggish Sullivan, according to a Harrisburg paper: Mr. Hendricks, being informed of the champion's presence in the train, expressed a desire to meet the Boston warrior. He was taken into the "Midway" while crossing the Alleghenies, and the two were presented to each other. After introductions around, cigars were produced, and the two hardest men in the world to knock out smoked and chatted. Mr. Hendricks jocularly remarked: "Well, John, they say you're a hard hitter." "Yes; when I hit a man I try to hit him hard." "Do you ever hit anybody as hard as you can?" "No, sir; I don't try that. I am afraid. But when I fight I try to do my man up as soon as I can." "Well, doesn't it hurt to be hit in the face?" "Oh, yes; it hurts; but I don't let them hit me often. And a man must get used to the hurting."

CHICAGO NEWS: Last year when the revenue from liquor licenses was divided between two taxes, one of \$500 and another of \$150, there were 3,300 saloons in existence in Chicago, and the proprietors all protested that they were carrying all the license they could, and that if it was made uniform at \$500 they would be crowded out of the business. This was the view held by the Saloon-keepers' Association, and a large class of politicians and others. In spite of their protests the license was placed at \$500. What is the result? There have been up to date 3,304 saloon-licenses issued, and there are about fifty more places to hear from, most of which will stay in the business. Two years ago the fee was \$52 a year. It is now nearly ten times that sum, and brings in a total revenue of \$1,652,000. This demonstrates that high license (at least as high as we have got) does not curb the liquor traffic, but failing in that it turns into the City Treasury a handsome revenue which can be used with a clear conscience as the lesser of the two evils. These figures will prove a subject for deep thought on the part of other cities now struggling with the license problem.

JOHN REYNOLDS, now of Buffalo, was one of the "Noble Six Hundred" that rode into the "Valley of Death" at the battle of Balaklava. He was born in the county of Longford, Ireland, and entered the army in 1851. When asked how many came out of the charge alive, Mr. Reynolds said it was hard to say, as so many who were wounded recovered afterward. Probably there were 150 on horseback who returned to the English lines. The men did not drop faster than in a general engagement,

and Mr. Reynolds thinks the three and bloody than that famous ride to glory. A half hour at the Alma were far more at the Alma one could not take a step in any direction without treading upon the remains of a man or horse. In the charge at Balaklava it was purely a matter of capturing the battery and then returning—if that were possible—and the soldiers did not falter once. Mr. Reynolds knows that Tennyson's poem has immortalized that day's work, but he does not believe it was harder or more worthy of commemoration than a hundred other fights in which he served.

ANOTHER outrageous miscarriage of justice is reported in the acquittal of Riddle and Reiber, the men who ruined the Penn Bank at Pittsburg less than a year ago. Riddle was President and Reiber cashier, and they conspired to use the funds of the bank in speculation in oil, while they deceived the directors by a system of false accounts. The bank was one of the oldest and strongest financial institutions in Pennsylvania, but it could not stand the loss of a million and a half dollars. When it broke a large number of depositors were completely ruined. Investigation showed that the bank had been literally plundered by the President and cashier, who had embezzled the money and used it attempting to get up a corner in oil, while the books had been doctored with false accounts and mythical depositors, so that the directors were completely deceived. It was a case of larceny rather than embezzlement, and the money was virtually stolen for the purpose of gambling in the oil market. Yet, with these facts made clear beyond all dispute, the jury found the defendants not guilty! The jurors must have been actually corrupt or else incapable of appreciating common honesty in business transactions.

"You may be sure that Mr. Blaine will never again be a candidate," remarked a friend of that gentleman to a Washington correspondent recently. "He believes that his chances are exhausted. Do you know," said he, "that he has a queer belief that there is a marked similarity in the career of Henry Clay and his own. Early in life both went from their native States to Kentucky. Both entered public life as members of their State Legislatures. Mr. Clay was Speaker of the lower house in Kentucky. Mr. Blaine filled a similar position in the Maine Legislature. Mr. Clay was a member of Congress afterward and served as Speaker sixteen years. Mr. Blaine was also a member of the House, and served as its Speaker six years. Mr. Clay was first elected to the Senate from Kentucky to fill a vacancy. Mr. Blaine was appointed to the Senate, but also to fill a vacancy. Mr. Clay resigned his seat in the Senate to accept the Secretaryship of State from John Quincy Adams. Mr. Blaine resigned the Senatorship to become Secretary of State under Garfield. Mr. Clay was three times the candidate for the Whig nomination. He was twice defeated in convention. He was finally nominated in 1844, but was defeated by James K. Polk. Mr. Blaine was beaten twice in the national convention, nominated in the third one, and was defeated by Grover Cleveland. Mr. Clay's letter on the Texas question is held to be a parallel to some of Mr. Blaine's letters. The Abolitionists in New York in 1884 threw their vote to Birney, and thereby gave the State to the Democracy. It is claimed that last year, if it had not been for the votes given to St. John, Blaine would have carried New York. The vote of New York decided the election in favor of the Democrats in 1844 and again in 1884. Mr. Clay was never a candidate after his final defeat, and it is believed by Mr. Blaine's friends that he will never again be presented to the public as a candidate. The parallel between himself and Mr. Clay will probably remain unbroken."

James Anthony Froude on Nihilism. In all countries there are disaffected members, and the Nihilists of Russia are what the dynamiters are in England. War would only divert the people from the doctrines of the cause. As long as there is a standing army of 2,000,000 men in Russia the Russian has but little hope for constitutional government. This force will always check any outbreak. This immense amount of soldiers is so distributed as to dispel any idea of a successful Nihilistic uprising. Besides, the disaffection is not so great as is supposed. The Russian country districts have as good a local self-government as there exists in the world. It is practically democracy. Their local affairs are all left to their own administration. The effect of this is to implant principles of independence and liberty in the people, which may eventually result in bringing about some change in the general government. But this can never take place while an army equal to that of Xerxes stands ready for action at the nod of an autocrat.

The love of distinction is the ruling passion of the human mind; we grudge whatever draws off attention from ourselves to others; and all our actions are but different contrivances, either by sheer malice or affected liberality, to keep it to ourselves or share it with others.

MICHIGAN AFFAIRS.

—The Richmond, creamery is making 2,000 pounds of butter a week.

—A Saginaw firm has received an order for lumber from the West Indies.

—James Oglesby, of Detroit, fell from the steamer Alaska at Put-in Bay, and was drowned.

—William McGargle slipped into a vat of boiling brine at Port Austin and was terribly scalded.

—Owing to the severe illness of a Saline woman the church bells of that place have not been rung for the last three Sundays.

—Reuben N. Rice, for many years General Superintendent of the Michigan Central Railroad, died at his home near Boston.

—H. P. Hosley, of Petoskey, foreman of a gravel gang, was run over by the gravel train at Mackinaw City and was killed.

—With a stock of pig-iron on hand estimated at 35,000 tons the Fayette furnace, near Escanaba, has closed down for an indefinite period.

—Mrs. Chapoton, who has just died at Detroit, was born in Michigan ninety-three years ago. She was the oldest white woman born in the State.

—One strong argument in favor of lighting the streets with gas—besides its economy—is found in the restoration of our street signs, the absence of which has caused so much inconvenience and loss of time and temper.—*Free Press.*

—Two deaths by drowning resulted at Ishpeming last week. The first was a girl five years old, who fell into Lake Angeline, while playing near the water. The second was a boy named Peterson, twelve years old, who fell into the same lake while fishing.

—Judge Smith, of Clinton County, says in so many words that a woman who will marry a drunkard must accept the consequences and expiate the folly by going with him through life. He said this to Mrs. Clara Reed, refusing her application for divorce.

—It is expected that 125 United States convicts in the Detroit House of Correction will be freed by a Supreme Court decision to the effect that trial for "infamous" crimes can properly be had only after indictment by a Grand Jury. One convict has already been released on this ground.

—Dr. A. M. Gerow has a cranberry marsh located about five miles from Cheboygan. He has one acre planted that is coming on finely, the plants being in blossom and giving indications of promising results. Last week he sent out fifty-three bags, about one ton of plants sufficient, to put in four more acres. It will not be many years before this will become a very important factor in the industries of this section.—*Cheboygan Tribune.*

—The death of so prominent a merchant as Mr. C. R. Mabley is not only a most important and interesting local event, but will attract attention far beyond the city limits. Establishments in four other cities have known his name, if not his personality, known to the citizens of as many other States. His renowned advertisements have literally made his firm and business "familiar" in our mouths as household words. From the father who bought his clothing and the mother who visited his bazaar to the boy who was fitted out as occasion required with suit and hat and ball and sled, Mabley's name was like one of the family's.—*Free Press.*

Didn't Object to Being Kissed. W. T. Carleton has been not a little annoyed since Sunday at the jokes that have been poked at him over his supposed encounter with Miss Sadie Martinot. It seems that both these artists are now on thoroughly good terms with each other, and there is not a shadow remaining of any unpleasantness over the "Nanon" kiss that first prompted the trouble.

"In fact," said Mr. Carleton, yesterday, "there was no trouble. The impression that I either slapped Miss Martinot, or threw her down, or let her fall over, when I got up, suddenly angry at being kissed, is all absurd. Nothing of the kind occurred at all. I thought that if kissing was an absolute necessity in the piece there was no need of going over it every day at rehearsal. This was a part of the business that did not necessitate constant study, and besides, while it is a useful thing, I believe on the German stage for actors and actresses to kiss each other square on the lips, it is rather opposed to American customs and ideas. I made this remark at rehearsal, and appealed not to Miss Martinot but to Mr. Conried, the stage manager, saying: 'I don't see why so much kissing should go on.' And besides, as Miss Martinot seized my face constantly before kissing, there is a good deal of danger that I should lose the whole of my make-up, and come out of the encounter blotched all over the face."

"Miss Martinot took my remarks in perfectly good part, and seemed not to be annoyed the least at them—in fact, I imagine that she tacitly agreed and only wanted to be told how to do the business differently than she had already been taught it. At any rate, it was mutually changed and fixed as it is now done in the piece, which is certainly much less offensive than it would have been to the audience in its original shape."

"I find Miss Martinot a very pleasant little lady to get along with, and I am quite sure that she never made the accusation that I was guilty of any brutality toward her. I am perfectly willing to have the public believe that I would strike a man in case of necessity, but I hate to be thought capable of striking a woman, and I certainly never did it. I wish you would set me right in this matter so that this absurd story may be stopped on its rounds."—*New York Morning Journal.*

—John A. Bell began work for the Detroit *Free Press* as a galley boy at the age of fourteen in 1865, and retired from the concern as managing editor, after twenty years of faithful and intelligent service. He will enter the legal profession.

—The Comptroller of the Currency has authorized the American Exchange National Bank, of Detroit, to begin business with a capital of \$400,000.

—A cheap circus drew 14,000 people under the canvas at St. Louis.

LAND GRABBERS.

Power of the Government to Prevent Illegal Occupation of Lands in Indian Territory.

Millions of Acres Occupied by Little Companies Without the Color of Law or Justice.

[Washington telegram to Chicago Tribune.]

Gen. Sparks, Commissioner of the General Land Office, has had a complete list of all the cases where the public lands have been improperly fenced made out, with a statement of the present status of affairs. In all of these cases the parties have been notified to remove the fences. In some instances they have consulted attorneys who have held that a reasonable number of openings in the fences is sufficient. In such cases the openings are guarded, and to all intents and purposes fences still exist. The total amount of land that has been appropriated in this way is between one and two million acres.

Secretary Lamar has received a letter from Gen. McCook, ex-Governor of Colorado, relative to the power of the Government to prevent illegal occupation of lands in Indian Territory. The writer asserts that the law declares that the Secretary of the Interior has full control of all Indian affairs under the laws, subject to direction by the President; that certain contracts may be made by individuals with Indians relative to services in procuring the payments of claims, but no authority exists for making contracts of any other nature, and, if made, they are null and void; that no purchase, grant, lease, or other conveyance of lands of any title or claim thereto from any Indian nation or tribe of Indians shall be of any validity in law or equity, unless the same shall be made by treaty or convention, entered into pursuant to the Constitution; that only the United States can make any contract with any Indian nation or tribe affecting lands, whether by purchase, lease, or otherwise, and the United States can do so only by formal agreement; and that the President may employ the military to remove trespassers from the Indian lands.

Gen. McCook substantiates the above points by citations from the Revised Statutes, and declares that the United States can make agreements respecting Indian lands only with the Indians themselves, and not with third parties, and only with the Indians by agreement ratified by Congress. Notwithstanding the positive prohibitions of the law against the leasing or conveyance of lands by Indian tribes, substantially all the lands in Indian Territory set apart for exclusive Indian occupation, General McCook says, are in the possession of white men, under leases from Indians who had no power to lease, and with the tacit recognition of the Department of the Interior (under a former administration), which he believes had no power to recognize or assent to any such lease or possession.

LIST OF THE LESSEES. The following is given as a partial list of parties in occupation of such lands in the Cheyenne and Arapahoe Reservations in Indian Territory, and the amount of land controlled by them and embraced in their designated boundaries:

Hampton H. Denman of Washington, D. C., formerly member of the Kansas State Senate, 55,000 acres.
Edward Fenlon of Leavenworth, Kas., and William C. Malley of Caldwell, Kas., each 564,800 acres.
Robert A. Hunter of St. Louis, Mo., 500,000 acres.
Albert G. Evans of St. Louis, Mo., 456,900 acres.
Lewis L. Briggs of Muscaton, Kas., 318,720 acres.
Jesse S. Morrison, of Darlington, I. T., 138,240 acres.
Unknown lessees, leasing Oct. 15, 1883, 714,000 acres.

Total to above parties, 3,832,520 acres.

THE NOMINAL RENTALS. "Briggs, a member of the Kansas State Senate, 1881-83, and E. M. Hewins, and others, in trust for the Cherokee Strip Live-Stock Association of Kansas, a Kansas corporation, leased for five years from Oct. 1, 1883, 3,000,000 acres, being all the unoccupied lands conveyed to the Pawnees, Poncas, Nez Percés, Otoes, Missouris, Osages, and Kansas Indians. The rental is 15 cents per acre. If the Indians had power to make leases, and if the Interior Department had power to assent to them, what can be said of such an execution of a public trust, supposed to be created for the purpose of protecting Indian rights and interests, as the acquiescence in a lease of lands for a term of years at a rental which is nothing more than nominal? Is that the way the Government of the United States should care for its wards? If such leases were legal—if authority existed to make them—they would surely be obtaining from the Indians, with the assent of their guardian, valuable property rights and privileges for a pittance. If the legality of the leases were doubtful they should not be permitted the countenance of an administration pledged to set its face against corruption, collusion, and wrong. Being, as they unquestionably are, wholly unauthorized and illegal, as well as an impediment, should there be an instant's hesitation in disavowing them, and in the summary exercise of all the power and authority of the Government in dispossessing the holders under them?"

TRESPASSERS.

Continuing his argument declaring the illegality of the leases, Gen. McCook says: "Both under the common law, and the enactments of Congress all parties other than Indians occupying these lands are trespassers. The intention of the law setting apart this domain was that it should be enjoyed by the Indians for the purpose of making to them civilized homes, encouraging them in habits of industry, and elevating and improving their condition. The actual facts now are that, instead of the Indians possessing and enjoying the benefits designed for them, their country is overrun with speculators and adventurers of every degree, who have despoiled them of their property, and practically sequestered their birthrights, destroying their opportunities of self-support, and leaving them nothing for the future, while keeping them dependent in the present."

SENATOR PLUMB, of Kansas, is said to be engaged in a careful study of Southern scenes and life, and the horrible possibility is suggested that he is going to write a book.

MR. RUSKIN'S father was once a wine merchant. His maternal grandmother was the landlady of the Old King's Head Tavern at Croydon, and her husband was a sailor.

B. F. HACKMAN, at one time publisher of the *American Register* at Washington, has become a partner in the New Orleans *Daily States Publishing Company*.

A NEW BEDFORD woman has taken to playing the cornet. The question of woman's suffering is claiming.

HELEN GARDNER claims to be the only woman infidel in the world.

Dishonoring the Flag.

While Mr. Cleveland's letter declaring that he intended to restore the old anti-National theories of Jefferson was being read to the Tammany Society in New York the Fourth of July the people in Washington were astonished to see that no flags were floating over the departments where Lamar and Garland held sway. For the first time in twenty-five years there were bare flagpoles on these public buildings the Fourth of July. Garland and Lamar are State-sovereignty men, and they could not stultify themselves by hoisting the National flag. So far as these gentlemen have any particular taste in the matter of flags it seems to be in some other direction than toward the Star-Spangled Banner. In times past they showed such devotion to a flag of another pattern that they risked their lives in its defense; but as for the banner of the Union they could not trouble themselves to see that it floated over the public buildings during the celebration of the National Fourth, as has always been the custom heretofore. Lamar and Garland use the National banner only to lower it in honor of men like Jake Thompson. Twice since they have been in power have they dishonored the flag.

In the language of the street the last Fourth of July was a rather cool day for the American flag. Mr. Cleveland's letter declaring in effect that the flag represents a mere confederacy of States instead of a Nation was given to the public while his two Rebel Secretaries declined to hoist the flag over their departments according to the time-honored custom. From another quarter came reports showing that the flag had been dishonored elsewhere in the name of the same identical doctrines. The bare flagpoles in Washington and the banners at half-mast in Salt Lake City alike attested the Democratic doctrine that this is not a Nation but a confederacy of States in which the people of the various sovereignties have the right to manage their own affairs in their own way according to the dogmas of "local self-government" and "home rule." John Taylor and Brigham Young Jr. believe in this dogma as firmly as Cleveland, Lamar, or Garland. It was the same sentiment precisely that dictated the Tammany letter, presented bare flagpoles on the public buildings at Washington, and displayed the banner at half-mast in Salt Lake City. In each instance the sentiment expressed was one of opposition to Nationality and devotion to the Democratic dogma that the States are sovereign and independent.

The dishonor offered the flag at Salt Lake City was not intended to express displeasure with the administration. Indeed, the Mormons had just finished a jubilee because Cleveland had removed a Republican Judge who was inflexible in administering the antipolygamy laws passed by a Republican Congress over Democratic votes. Every grievance the Mormons have on the score of interference with their practices they lay at the door of previous Republican administrations. The saints have expressed their gratitude to Cleveland for removing an inflexible Republican Judge; they will thank him with still greater ardor if he carries out his promise to reverse the doctrine of nationality and restore the old Jeffersonian dogmas in regard to "home rule" and "local self-government," thus leaving the Mormons to "manage their own affairs in their own way." In the nature of things every consistent Mormon is an out-and-out Democrat, and every man of them must endorse Cleveland's letter to Tammany to the last syllable. Jeffersonian Democracy is exactly what they want.

For precisely the same reasons Mormons and rebels dishonor the national flag and unite with Cleveland in declaring fervent faith in "Jeffersonian Democracy." The same sentiment was represented by the Tammany letter, the bare flagpoles at Washington, and the banners at half-mast in Salt Lake City. With the national flag dishonored in this way the Fourth of July the people can understand just what "Jeffersonian Democracy" means. How do the mugwumps like it? Do these incidents illustrate their ideas of "purity and reform" in the affairs of the Government? How do the "Saint Johnnies" like their work? Are they still convinced that there is nothing in national administration so important as the town pump? With rebels in nearly all the high places of the Government, and the bigoted enemies of nationality conspiring to insult the national flag the Fourth of July, the people have been treated to a pretty strong dose of ancient Democracy. It remains to be seen how much stomach they have for displays like these when they are conducted every instance in accordance with the very doctrines which the President himself proclaims.—*Chicago Tribune.*

Blaine's Political Future.

A well-known Maine man who is visiting in Washington, said to-day: "The manner in which Mr. Blaine is acquiescing in the result of last November's struggles brings him closer to the heart of the people of his State, and there is no place within their gift he could not have by indicating that he would take it. He can return to the Senate or to the lower house within two years if he chooses. And as he intends to remain in the public view it is more than likely that he will accept a seat in Congress after his literary task has been completed. Either Senator Hale or Congressman Miliken would retire to give place to Mr. Blaine if he should desire to return to the active duties of the House or Senate. Small as the return, Hale could become Governor. Frye would not yield unless compelled to, and it would keep Blaine busy to beat him if he tried. There is a general feeling here that the matter can be arranged to accommodate all the statesmen. There is also a belief that while Mr. Blaine goes back into public life for a few years, he will not permit himself to be again pushed for the Presidency.—*Washington dispatch to Boston Advertiser.*

CROP PROSPECTS.

Condition of Wheat, Corn, Oats, and Hay in Indiana, Indiana, and Ohio.

An Abundant Yield Promised of Everything but Wheat—The Harvest Begun.

A Comprehensive Summary.

[Indianapolis telegram.]

The forthcoming number of the *Indiana Farmer* will contain full reports of the condition of the various crops in Indiana, Illinois, and Ohio. From advance sheets the following is taken:

We have very full reports of the condition of the various crops in the three central Western States. It will be noticed that the condition of the wheat crop in Indiana does not differ largely from our June reports, as to per cent. Many of our correspondents write that the wheat has headed longer than usual, and the berry is very full and plump, and that wheat will be of fine quality, weighing heavy. The showers of June contributed to this result largely, keeping the plant growing. In Illinois the reports put the condition lower than heretofore, and it is quite evident that the crop will be an exceedingly short one in that State. Our Ohio reports are nearly a last month, as to condition, though it is stated that wheat has filled nicely and will be of good quality, though the crop there will be short, as elsewhere.

Reports generally agree as to the fine condition of the corn crop. As stated in the June report, the ground was never in finer condition for this plant. May was dry, which caused the young plant to root deep, and June was very favorable for fair growth. Reports mention the splendid rooting of the plant, and while it has not grown so rapidly as in some former favorable years, the area and condition of the growing crop gives assurance now of the largest ever grown. There have been complaints of too much rain in some counties of Illinois in particular, where drainage has not been attended to, but from some of these reports it is stated that the corn during the latter part of June was cleaned up of weeds, and is doing well.

Oats and hay are both fine. Indeed, there seems to be one short crop—that of wheat, and all else overcomes well. We can see no reason for discouragement in the farm outlook. Wheat Summary—Indiana: The June report put the condition at 60 per cent. of an average crop. Now it is stated at 50 per cent. June report 40 per cent., but our reports think it will not exceed 40 for the whole State. This is the worst for years. Ohio: June report put the condition at 70 per cent., but now the condition is reported at 50 per cent. The highest condition of the wheat crop ever reported in the northern sections of the three States.

Corn—This crop now promises to be large in all three States. As stated in our June reports, the area is large, and the condition is fair. From this on, these States will probably grow the largest corn crop ever harvested.

Oats—This will also be a large crop. June has been very favorable for it, and all reports agree in the promise of a large yield and good quality.

Hay—The frequent showers in June have kept the meadows growing and in fine condition. The yield of the hay crop will be excellent, is the report from nearly all sections.

Mr. Tallmadge's Estimate.

[Milwaukee special.]

Mr. S. W. Tallmadge, Secretary of the Milwaukee Chamber of Commerce, has prepared his fourth general report on the condition and outlook of the wheat crop of the United States for 1885. Notwithstanding the current rumors that the wheat condition has developed great improvement during the past ten days, the reports show to the contrary. Where slight improvement is noted in some of the smaller producing States, it is largely offset by the States show a still further falling off in the yield, and from the very latest advices from the principal winter wheat States Mr. Tallmadge says he can see no good reason to change his late estimate of 331,000,000 bushels as the probable total yield of winter and spring wheat.

The spring wheat States, Iowa, Nebraska, and Dakota, report the wheat in excellent condition, with every indication of a good average outcome, but we must not lose sight of the fact that these States have just entered into the trying month for spring wheat.

Reports from Minnesota show considerable damage in the southern part of the State, while Northern Minnesota shows the crop in promising condition. Many excellent judges say the State will do well to yield 33,000,000 bushels.

Wisconsin is reported in fair condition, but owing to the decrease in area and almost total destruction of the winter wheat the State will not produce over 75 per cent. of last year's crop.

GEN. GRANT'S BOOK.

Text of the Preface to His "Personal Memoirs."

[New York dispatch.]

The preface to Gen. Grant's book will be as follows:

"Men propose, and God disposes." There are but few important events in the history of our country which have not been brought about by their own choice. Although frequently urged by my friends to write my memoirs, I had determined not to do so, never to write anything for publication. At the age of nearly 62 I received an injury from a fall which confined me closely to the house, while it did not apparently affect my health. Shortly after the receipt of a business partner developed itself by the announcement of a failure. This was followed by a series of universal depressions of all securities, which seemed to threaten the extinction of a good part of the income still retained, and for which I am indebted to the kindly act of friends. At this juncture the editor of the *Century* magazine asked me to write a few articles for him. I consented for the money it gave me, for at that moment I was living on borrowed money.

The work I found congenial, and I determined to continue it. The event is an important one for me, for good or evil—I hope for the former. In preparing the book, the public I have entered upon the task with the sincere desire to avoid doing injustice to any one, whether on the National or personal side, other than the unavoidable injustice not making mention often where special mention is due. There must be many errors of omission in the work, because the subject is too large to be treated in two volumes in such a way as to do justice to all the officers and men engaged. There are thousands of instances during the rebellion of individual company, regimental, and brigade deeds of heroism which deserve special mention, and are not here alluded to. The troops engaged in them will have to look to the detailed reports of their individual commanders for the full history of these deeds.

The first volume, as well as a portion of the second, was written before I had reason to suppose I was in a critical condition of health. Later I was reduced almost to the point of death, and it became impossible for me to attend to anything for weeks. I have, however, retained somewhat of my strength, and am able often to devote as many hours a day as a person should devote to such work. I would have more time of satisfactory work, and the public if I could have allowed myself more time. I have used my best efforts, with the aid of my closest son, to make the book as complete as possible. I have been assisted by my brothers, to verify from the records every statement of fact given. The comments are my own, and show how I saw the matters treated, or whether others saw them in the same light or not. With these remarks I present these volumes to the public, asking no favor, but hoping they will meet the approval of the reader.

U. S. GRANT.

The Afghan Frontier.

Advices from St. Petersburg say that Russians in front of Murgab state that the Afghans are massing troops on the frontier. The Russians are of the opinion that the Afghans intend to avenge the Penjdeh defeat. The Sariks are also excited by the Afghan movement, which seems likely to end in Russian interference should the Afghans again go to the length of justifying the Russians in taking notice of their insolent challenge.

The Lynchburg Virginian wants Gen. Early to write a history of the war.